

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AF-10 ARA-10 EA-10 EUR-12 NEA-10

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00

PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 OMB-01 AID-05 SSM-03 NSCE-00

SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 /113 W

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FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7669

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 2198

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: UN LE MOPS IS

SUBJ: WALDHEIM VISIT TO LEBANON

1. U.N. SECRETARY-GENERAL KURT WALDHEIM MET WITH PRESIDENT SARKIS, FOREIGN MINISTER BOUTROS, PRIME MINISTER AL-HOSS, AND PLO CHIEF YASIR ARAFAT IN A BRIEF SEVEN-HOUR VISIT TO BEIRUT ON APRIL 17, DURING WHICH THE ROLE OF UNIFIL, PALESTINIAN ATTITUDES, AND DEPLOYMENT OF THE LEBANESE ARMY SOUTH WERE DISCUSSED. ASKED BY NEWSMEN AFTER THE MEETINGS IF UNIFIL WOULD TAKE UP POSITIONS NORTH OF THE LITANI, WALDHEIM, ACCORDING TO L'ORIENT LE-JOUR, REPLIED: "THAT IS NOT OUR INTENTION. WE ARE GUIDED BY THE SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION WHICH HAS DETERMINED THE MISSION OF THE U.N. FORCES, LIMITING ITS PRESENCE TO REGIONS OCCUPIED

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BY THE ISRAELIS WHOSE WITHDRAWAL MUST BE ASSURED. ANY MODIFICATION OF THAT MISSION DEPENDS ON SECURITY COUNCIL." ON THE OTHER HAND, AN-NAHAR QUOTED "SOURCE CLOSE TO PLO" AS SAYING ARAFAT HAD AGREED IN PRINCIPLE TO ALLOW SOME UNIFIL OFFICERS TO BE STATIONED IN ARNUN AND CHATEAU BEAUFORT.

2. FOREIGN MINISTER BOUTROS WAS QUOTED IN ENGLISH LANGUAGE DAILY IKE AS SAYING HE THOUGHT THE SECRETARY-GENERAL WAS "TENDING THE DIRECTION OF INCREASING THE SIZE OF UNIFIL." WALDHEIM TOLD REPORTERS THAT HE EXPECTED THE PRESENTLY PLANNED 4,000-MAN FORCE TO BE IN POSITION WITHIN TWO WEEKS AND THAT HE WOULD ASK THE SECURITY COUNCIL TO SEND MORE, IF NECESSARY. (ABOUT 2500 UNIFIL TROOPS ARE IN PLACE SO FAR.)

3. WALDHEIM SAID THAT ARAFAT HAD PLEDGED THE PLO WOULD CONTINUE TO COOPERATE WITH UNIFIL FORCES IN SOUTH LEBANON IN IMPLEMENTING SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 425 "IN ALL ITS ASPECTS." AT THE SAME TIME, A PLO SPOKESMAN AFFIRMED THAT ARAFAT HAD ASSURED WALDHEIM THAT THE PLO WOULD ASSIST THE U.N.'S MISSION OF SUPERVISING COMPLETE ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL FROM SOUTH LEBANON. (COMMENT: ARAFAT GAVE SIMILAR ASSURANCES TO UNIFIL COMMANDER ERSKINE ON MARCH 28.)

4. ASKED BY REPORTERS IF THE U.N. FORCES WOULD PERMIT THE ARMED PRESENCE OF PALESTINIAN GUERRILLAS IN SOUTH LEBANON AFTER THE ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL, WALDHEIM ANSWERED AMBIGUOUSLY: "OUR FORCES WILL CONTROL EVERY MOVEMENT IN THE AREA."

5. WALDHEIM INDICATED THAT THE LEBANESE GOVERNMENT WOULD
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NOT SEND TROOPS SOUTH SHORTLY. HE TOLD REPORTERS THAT THIS MOVE REQUIRED A LOT OF PREPARATION AND NO DECISION HAD YET BEEN TAKEN. ACCORDING TO AL-AMAL, WALDHEIM PROPOSED FORMATION OF TRIPARTITE UN-GOL-GOI COMMITTEE TO SUPERVISE ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL, AND LEBANESE OFFICIALS EXPRESSED "NO OBJECTION IN PRINCIPLE."

6. COMMENT. WALDHEIM'S STATEMENT THAT UNIFIL WOULD NOT OPERATE OUTSIDE OF SOUTH LEBANON MAY marginally HELP CONVINCE CHAMOUN AND OTHER CHRISTIAN LEADERS THAT IT IS NOT POSSIBLE TO SOLVE PROBLEMS ELSEWHERE IN LEBANON THROUGH "INTERNATIONALIZATION." GOL, DESPITE EARLIER ASSURANCES TO THE CONTRARY TO US, APPARENTLY INDICATED IT WAS NOT NOW READY TO SEND ITS SOLDIERS SOUTH. END COMMENT.

7. U.N. SPOKESMAN TELLS US WALDHEIM MAY VISIT TYRE AND NAQURA ON APRIL 18.
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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